

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Rockport Police Station, Community Room

In attendance: Tom McCarthy, Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders

Guests: Erin Battistelli, David Dwinell, Paul Weiss, Marta Witthoft, Ted Tarr.

Meeting opened: 1:05 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the April 30, 2013 Meeting: McCarthy moves to accept the minutes; Parisi seconds; the vote to accept the minutes of the April 30, 2013 meeting was unanimous.

Granite Street – Traffic on the Keystone Bridge: The Committee received a letter from Diana Brown McCloy requesting a cautionary sign warning motorists about the presence of pedestrians and cyclists on the narrow bridge. McCarthy agreed with the dangerousness there due to the narrowing of the bridge particularly on the north side and the lack of curbing or a sidewalk on the bridge; however accidents have not been an issue in this area. Parisi said the curbing is too narrow to install a sign on the bridge; one can be installed before the bridge heading northbound in the area of Wharf Road. Parisi moves to install a sign warning motorists of pedestrians and cyclists; Sanders seconds and the vote was unanimous.

Granite Street – Parking near Pythian Hall: Ms. Witthoft described problems with parking, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights when the private club at Pythian Hall is open. Ms. Battistelli supplied several photo's showing cars blocking driveways in the area and cars parking close to the corner. In the past this building had been used as a community center and a voting location. There may be parking in the rear of the building. Currently a CATA bus stop is located in front of the building. McCarthy reported that the "No Parking" signs are on the easterly side of Granite Street. Another possible parking location for Club members may be on Breakwater Avenue. McCarthy and Parisi will do a site visit and review the parking in this area; recommendations for modifications of the parking in the area will follow.

Board of Selectmen – scheduling of previously discussed items:

1. Stop sign - intersection of Broadway and Mt. Pleasant Street: the request for the "Stop" sign is on hold due to problems with location of the sign. Sanders confirmed that the Board of Selectmen has not reviewed the request to move the CATA bus stop to this area which will impact the placement of the "Stop" sign.
2. Stop sign – intersection of Jewett Street and Main Street: This request needs the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

3. Main Street at Five Corners – removal of two parking places has been voted by the Board of Selectmen. McCarthy and DPW worker, Bill Aspesi, will do a site visit to confirm which two spaces will be removed.
4. Clarifying the Role and Responsibility of the Traffic and Parking Committee: If the request requires a change in the regulations, then the Board of Selectmen must vote on the request. Currently, handicap parking spaces are not listed in the regulations; this Committee will prepare a list of handicap spaces and request the Board of Selectmen to incorporate it into the existing Traffic and Parking Regulations. Sanders clarified that the Board of Selectmen do vote on the addition of “Stop” signs; a hearing is not required.
5. Municipal Lots: A proposal with a recommendation for the use and regulations of these lots is needed. The Board of Selectmen will decide if a Parking and Transportation Committee needs to be established; and if this Committee is implemented one of its goals can be to develop a plan for managing the municipal parking lots.

Pending Items:

1. **Bearskin Neck:** Information on the traffic restrictions is being mailed to residents. McCarthy will ask in the Board of Selectmen’s meeting for a volunteer to monitor traffic at the entrance to the Neck; this could be a Senior Work-off position. The traffic has been redirected at Dock Square by removing signs and blacking out arrows. No feedback was provided by the shop owners. McCarthy reported this area would be difficult to implement traffic limitations restricting vehicles. Parisi will include Bearskin Neck in the study to be done reviewing pedestrian and bicycle safety on Route 127, 127A, Broadway and Mt. Pleasant Street. McCarthy and Parisi will review the recommendations when the report is completed.
2. **Board of Selectmen Workshop:** An upcoming Board of Selectmen Workshop will include discussion on the following items: rerouting traffic to the school, the Wayfinding project proposed by the Economic Development Committee, and issues related to scuba divers on Back Beach.
3. **Evans Way:** Parisi reported the proposed land survey of the area is estimated to cost \$2,000; improvements to the road cannot be completed until the survey is done. He will be ordering the survey. Two “No Parking” signs will be installed.
4. **Speed Radar Signs on Route 127:** McCarthy has not completed the speed radar survey yet. The inclement weather tends to decrease the amount of weekend traffic on the roadway; and better results occur when more vehicular traffic passes on the road.

Adjournment: Parisi moved, McCarthy seconded and it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:10 p.m.